Child Labour Employed in Unorganised Sector

*157. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 80—85 per cent of he child labour employed in unorganised sector is still beyond the jurisdiction of Child Labour Act ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the exclusion of a large chunk of child labour from any protection ;

(c) whether Government propose to bring another legislation for the unorganised child labour of the country ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Toxic contents in the imported palmolein oil

*158. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Palmolein oil, imported from Malaysia, was found having toxic contests which was detected by the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter by Government ?

MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) :(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

India's Position in Public Trade

*159. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Ministry of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the 50 billion dollar international plastic trade, India counts for a mere 145 million signifying less than 2 per cent of the international plastic trade and if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether it is a fact that as reported in Observer dated 23-11-93 the Chairman of Plastic and Linoleum Export Council complained that Government are not giving adequate freedom to the exporters of plastic as could be verified by the fact that the case regarding VABAL had been taken up with Government ; and

(c) if so, what are the restrictions on exports and what is the case regarding VABAL ; with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The main reasons for India's small share in international plastic trade are given below :

(i) the plastric industry in the India is relatively younger and is still in the developing stage ;

(ii) India is dependent on import of raw materials upto 30% of its requirement.

(b) and (c) The report under reference in the Observer dated 23-11-93 has come to Government's notice. However, it is not accurate to say that the exporters of plastic products are not given adequate freedom. The only restiction imposed by the Government is that with effect from 14-9-1993 as many as 20 items including 6 plastic items have been put in the Senstive category, as a result of which these can be imported only as per the standardised and published input-output and value addition norms for the products. This measure has been taken on review of the facility of VABAL (Value Based Advance Licence) for these items, with a view to streamlining it on the demand of Indian industry. Reports had come to the notice that these items were being imported in disproportionate quantities under VABAL on account of their carrying high duty element and substantial

premium in the Indian market. This was leading to dumping of such items to the ditriment of the indigenous industry. These factors prompted Government to take the aforementioned measure. At the same time, with a view to providing relief to the exporters, a flexibility provision has been made for the import of the Sensitive items including plastic items allowing excess upto 20% in quantity within the overall CIF value of the value-based advance licence. These Sensitive items, importable on the basis of VABAL's, are also available from indigenous manufactures through the Advance Release Order System.

Amendment to the Maternity Benefits Act, 1973

*160. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Maternity Benefits Act, 1973 disallowing maternity leave to women, working in private factories and establishments etc. who have more than two children; and

(b) if so, whether Government have been cognizant of the reaction of the women organisations and particularly of women below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) A suggestion for restricting maternity benefit to women workers upto two children only is under examination of Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Consumer Redressal fora in the Country

1219. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether ti is a fact that enough publicity is not being given to the consumer redressal fora existing in various parts of the country;

(b) if not, in what manner consumers are enlightened about the consumer fora;

(c) the number of consumer fora existing in the country and the number of grievances filed with the fora during the last two years;

(d) the number of cases cleared finally and the average time taken in clearing each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) The Government has taken a number of steps to give enough publicity to the Consumer Redressal Fora set up under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. A number of booklets, brochures have been printed and distributed free of cost to consumers/consumer organisations in all parts of the country. The Ministry is also broadcasting a regular weekly AIR programme "Apne Adhikar" on all the commercial broadcasting stations which imparts knowledge on consumer redressal fora. Similarly, Ministry is also publishing the quarterly journal entitled "Upabhokta Jagaran" which is being distributed to all the consumer organizations, liberaries etc. free of cost.

(c) and (d) As per information available with the Government, 452 District Fora are functioning in the country. A statement indicating the number of cases filed in various districts fora and disposed of since inception is enclosed (*See* below). The Ministry does not keep record of average time taken in clearing a case as it varies from case to case depending upon the nature of case, workload with the District Forum etc.